

1998: A YEAR IN REVIEW

NJCCR CHAIR RECEIVES NJ PRIDE AWARD IN HEALTH

The Commission is pleased to announce that its chairman, Dr. Frederick B. Cohen, has received the New Jersey Pride Award in Health for his trendsetting contributions to the practice of medical oncology in the state's hospitals. The fourteenth annual New Jersey Pride Award celebration, held May 6, 1998, at the Hackensack Meadowland Environmental Center, was presented by New Jersey Monthly.

For over 40 years Dr. Cohen has dedicated his time to training dozens of oncologists, and overseeing the care of thousands of patients. He is most interested in breast cancer and plans to surrender the helm of Newark Beth Israel's oncology division this year so that he can devote more time to teaching and research. He currently serves as a principal investigator for several clinical studies by national cooperative groups, and has chaired the NJCCR since 1986.

The Commission sincerely appreciates all of the contributions Dr. Cohen has made and wish him continued success in the fight against Cancer in New Jersey.



AOE RICOH raised more than \$23,000 for prostate cancer at its charity pro-am golf tournament. Pictured left to right are Peter Doherty, prostate cancer advocate, Carl Davis, President of AOE RICOH, and Dr. Frederick Cohen, NJCCR Chair.

FIRSTS FOR THE NJCCR

The New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research was fortunate to be the beneficiary of two very successful golf tournaments in 1998.

On May 26-27, 1998, **AOE RICOH, Inc.** of Fairfield, New Jersey, sponsored a major tournament for the Professional Golfers Association of America. The inaugural AOE RICOH CHARITY PRO AM held at the Rockaway River Country Club raised \$23,500 for the New Jersey Cancer Research Fund, specifically for Prostate Cancer Research.

Through the generous support of the AOE RICOH company, a Request For Applications (RFA) was made possible. The objective of this RFA is to stimulate new multidisciplinary research collaborations aimed at prostate cancer which will provide stimulation for the development of a research base focusing upon this disease.

In October of 1998, **Oberg & Lindquist** along with **KitchenAid** sponsored a golf classic at White Beeches Golf and Country Club in Haworth, New Jersey. This first annual golf classic raised \$10,000 to support the New Jersey Breast Cancer Research Fund.

Proceeds from this golf classic will enable the Commission to support an *Outstanding Breast Cancer Research Fellowship* in the 1999 grant cycle.

Since funding for research on prostate and breast cancer is inadequate, the Commission is very grateful that corporate supporters, such as AOE RICOH, Oberg & Lindquist, and KitchenAid are joining the fight against these dreadful diseases.

GOLF TOURNAMENTS LAUNCH

PROSTATE CANCER ADVOCATE RECEIVES 1998 GOVERNOR'S VOLUNTEER AWARD

Peter Doherty, one of the Commission's most cherished volunteers, was honored with the 1998 Governor's Volunteer Award in Health by Governor Christine Todd Whitman during a ceremony at Drumthwacket on June 26, 1998.

Mr. Doherty of Morris Township was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 1991. Since then, he has worked tirelessly to educate other men about the disease and to create an emotional support network. He has counseled over 600 men, founded the Prostate Cancer Support Group at Morristown Memorial Hospital, and created the state's Prostate Cancer Network, which provides help through 25 chapters. Mr. Doherty also conceived New Jersey's "Conquer Cancer" license plate, the proceeds from which will support cancer research.

Peter never complains about his medical condition, is selfless in his desire to combat prostate cancer, and has unified many talented individuals behind him in that effort. He is wished the good health he has worked so hard to bring to others.



Peter Doherty of Morris Township, gives us a "thumbs up" as Governor Christine Todd Whitman presents him with the Governor's Volunteer Award in Health.

PROSTATE CANCER ACTION PLAN RELEASED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN NEW JERSEY

For the first time in New Jersey, a detailed report on prostate cancer in the state was presented at a press conference at the State House in Trenton.

The report, entitled "Prostate Cancer in New Jersey: A Time For Action," was presented by health care professionals, community leaders and cancer survivors. The report is a culmination of planning and strategizing that began with the Prostate Cancer Summit in November of 1997.

At that meeting over 125 people representing health care, advocacy, and cancer survivorship in New Jersey, along with national experts, developed a strategic, comprehensive action plan that identifies strategies to reduce mortality and morbidity from prostate cancer on a statewide level.

The highlights of the Report include:

- New Jersey has similar prostate cancer rates when compared to the national average. Incidence and death rates in New Jersey are higher for African Americans than white males, which is also a national trend.
- Prostate cancer research in New Jersey is seriously underdeveloped, with only a few researchers involved in studies relating to the disease.
- New Jersey law requires health insurers who cover groups with 50 or more persons to provide coverage for an annual digital rectal exam (DRE) and a prostate specific antigen (PSA) test for men over 50 or those over 40 with a family history of the disease or other risk factors.

As a first step in carrying out their responsibility as per the research section of the recently released Prostate Cancer Action Plan, the New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research announced the creation of its first Prostate Cancer Advisory Group. For the past two years the NJCCR has worked diligently to make prostate cancer a high priority and has been involved extensively with the creation of this plan.

The Prostate Cancer Advisory Group to the NJCCR will undertake similar responsibilities of the established Breast Cancer Research Advisory Group. Members are appointed from leading prostate cancer experts in the state, including prostate cancer advocates.



“Coming Together to Conquer Cancer”

The March: “Coming Together to Conquer Cancer” culminated in a monumental march in Washington, D.C., on Saturday, September 26, 1998, attracting more than 100,000 people. This public awareness and grassroots campaign was organized at the national and local levels. The main purpose of the effort was to educate the American people about the devastating impact cancer has on our society, and to work with them to develop responsible policies toward eradicating cancer.

In support of the national effort, New Jersey cancer advocates formed a Task Force for the March to increase New Jersey’s involvement and visibility in this exciting and important national program. The Task Force directed a successful New Jersey Rally to Conquer Cancer on Thursday, September 17, 1998 at the State House in Trenton.



Over 5,500 Sold in 1998

The Conquer Cancer license plate had a tremendous year in 1998, selling 5,622 plates, making it the second most popular plate sold in New Jersey. This is the first license plate in the country to raise funds for cancer research and was developed thanks to the tireless efforts of Mr. Peter Doherty, a prostate cancer survivor and advocate, and Assemblywomen Carol Murphy (R-26), prime sponsor of the legislation establishing the license plate. Thanks to Schering Oncology Biotech, who underwrote the startup costs, over \$200,000 will be going to cancer researchers at non profit institutions throughout New Jersey.

Proceeds from its sale will be administered by the NJCCR and go to fund cancer research projects at non-profit institutions throughout the state. The Conquer Cancer license plate can be purchased at any time during the registration cycle and cost \$50 (over \$40 goes to cancer research), with a \$10 annual renewal fee (all of the renewal fee supports cancer research).



Pictured left to right: Supermodel Cindy Crawford, Dr. Gary Walco, Co-chair of the Nursing/Psychosocial Advisory Group, Ann Marie Hill, Executive Director of the NJCCR, and professional tennis player Andrea Jaeger, backstage at The March in Washington, D.C.

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

PRACTICAL ISSUES IN CANCER GENETICS

The *Practical Issues in Cancer Genetics* program was presented by the American Society of Clinical Oncology, The Cancer Institute of NJ, the Oncology Society of NJ, and the NJCCR. This *first of its kind* training conference, held May 28, 1998, at the Princeton Marriott, educated over 140 cancer professionals from around the country in the basics of cancer genetics and the role of cancer predisposition testing in clinical oncology, including the assessment and management of familial cancer risk.

A roster of nationally renowned speakers: Kenneth Offit, MD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center; Judy Garber, MD, Harvard Medical School; Charis Eng, MD, PhD, Harvard Medical School; Amy Strauss Tranin, RN, MS, OCN, The Cancer Institute of Health Midwest; and a panel discussion were the highlights of this meeting.

This program's success was based upon ASCO's newly developed curriculum on cancer genetics, and will serve as a model on other regional programs across the country.

RESEARCH IN NEW JERSEY

The Commission and the Cancer Institute of New Jersey once again joined forces to present *The Annual Retreat on Cancer Research in New Jersey*. The interactive meeting, held at the Princeton Marriott on May 29, 1998, brought over 400 New Jersey researchers together to learn of each others work, share ideas, and develop collaborations. **Bristol-Meyers Squibb** served as the major sponsor of the program and the following state's leading pharmaceutical companies sponsored *The NJ Cancer Research Award for Scientific Excellence*:

- (1) **Amgen Oncology** Award to **Lisa A. Taneyhill**, Princeton University for "Identification of Downstream Genes in the Wnt-1 Signal Transduction Pathway"
- (2) **Ortho-Biotech** Award to **Ramsey Foty**, Princeton University for "Effects of Dexamethasone on Cadherin-Mediated Cohesion of Human Fibrosarcoma HT-1080 Cells"
- (3) **Hoffman-La Roche** Award to **Kazuya Kudoh**, The Cancer Institute of NJ for "Analysis of Drug Resistance by DNA Microarray"
- (4) **Schering-Plough Oncology** Award to **Deepreet Singh**, UMDNJ-RWJMS for "Constitutive Expression of Preprotachykinin-I (PPT-I) in Breast Biopsies. Implications for Metastasis to the Bone Marrow (BM)."
- (5) **Zeneca Pharmaceuticals Group** Award to **Melissa Crouch**, Rutgers University for "Do Beliefs About Breast Cancer and Prostate Cancer Relate to Screening in Elderly African Americans?"
- (6) **Genentech Bio-Oncology** Award to **Faribourz Payvandi**, CABM for "NF- κ B Activity in Prostate Adenocarcinoma Cell Lines"
- (7) **Novartis Oncology** Award to **Rajula Bhatia-Gaur**, CABM for "The Nkx3.1 Homeobox Gene is Required for Normal Prostate Development"
- (8) **Pharmacia-Upjohn** Award to **Christine Y. Cai**, Rutgers University for "Altered Expression of p73 and Tumor Suppressor Genes p53, p21 in Esophageal Cancer."
- (9) **Rhone-Poulenc Rorer Oncology** Award to **Paul Haluska**, The Cancer Institute of NJ for "Characterization of a Novel Topoisomerase I-Binding Protein"
- (10) **Smith-Kline Beecham Oncology** Award to **Weihua Zhang**, Rutgers University for "Identification of UV-Inducible Genes by Differential Display"

The keynote speech entitled "Microdissecting the Molecular Stages of Cancer Progression and Invasion" was delivered by Lance A. Liotta, MD, PhD, Chief, Laboratory of Pathology, National Cancer Institute. The first plenary session was chaired by Michael Cole, PhD, Professor, Department of Molecular Biology, Princeton University. Another exciting portion of the day was the second plenary session chaired by William N. Hait, MD, PhD, Director, The Cancer Institute of New Jersey.

This year's program enjoyed the highest attendance at an *Annual Retreat* and was felt to be the most successful yet. The Commission looks forward to building upon this momentum at next year's program.

"CANCER SURVIVORSHIP THROUGHOUT THE LIFESPAN"

Over 150 health care professionals who conduct research or provide care to cancer survivors, including pediatricians, internists, oncologists, geriatricians, nurses, psychologists, social workers, administrators, and program directors attended this exceptional conference on October 8-10, 1998 in Atlantic City.

Presented by the New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research's Psychosocial/Nursing Advisory Committee and Tomorrow's Children's Fund of Hackensack University Medical Center, the focal points of this premier conference were:

- establishing a unified definition of long-term survival;
- identifying common sequelae of cancer over the course of the life span;
- developing strategies to assure continuity in the care of survivors from infancy through geriatrics;
- generating an agenda and models for clinical program development and research.

These particular elements were addressed by each speaker and audience members were challenged to collaborate across their disciplines and specialties to answer these unmet needs.

Co-sponsors of the event included the American Cancer Society, Eastern Division, the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship, Hackensack University Medical Center, UMDNJ/NJMS, Saint Barnabas Health Care System, The Cancer Institute of New Jersey and Cooper Health System. Plans are pending for continuing the examination of cancer survivorship throughout the lifespan in the coming years.

"SHARING PERSPECTIVES ON CANCER RESEARCH"

The "Sharing Perspectives on Cancer Research" conference, was held Wednesday, October 21, 1998 at Rider University. This interactive seminar educated over 300 patients, survivors, researchers and advocates about the emerging developments in cancer research. The program opened channels of communication and built bridges between researchers and survivors. Highlights of cancer research available in New Jersey was emphasized and breast cancer advocacy was viewed as a model for other advocacy groups.

The planning committee chairperson, Dr. Jonathan Yavelow from Rider University, stated "this conference provided a unique opportunity for researchers, survivors, advocates, and the public to exchange ideas, build support and understand each others roles in battling this disease."

The informational workshops were the main attraction of this conference and covered a variety of topics. Representatives for the research community and the pharmaceutical companies here in New Jersey explained topics such as breast cancer and hormones, prostate cancer, new cancer treatments and non-traditional medicines. Patients, survivors, advocates and the public responded in each workshop with questions and concerns to better understand the effects of this dreadful disease.

The conference co-sponsors were the American Cancer Society, Eastern Division, The Breast Cancer Research Advisory Group to the New Jersey State Commission on Cancer Research, The Cancer Institute of New Jersey, Rider University, Saint Barnabas Health Care System and was supported by educational grants from AMGEN, Johnson & Johnson, and the Susan G. Komen Foundation New Jersey Race for the Cure®.

1999: Planning for the Future

The Commission, and its advisory groups will be working on the following projects/programs in the coming year:

- Formation of *The New Jersey Working Group to Improve Clinical Outcomes in Cancer Patients*, February 1999.
- “Concert to Conquer Cancer” May 1, 1999 at the War Memorial, Trenton, NJ featuring the NJ Symphony Orchestra performing *Sophisticated Ellington: Symphony & Swing*.
- “The 1999 Annual Retreat on Cancer Research in New Jersey” May 27, 1999 at the Hyatt Regency, New Brunswick, NJ in co-sponsorship with The Cancer Institute of New Jersey.
- Release of 1999-2000 NJCCR grants and fellowships, April, 1998.
- Release of 1999-2000 Breast Cancer Research Fund Awards, April, 1998.
- Breast Cancer Research Symposia, October 29, 1999.
- Prostate Cancer Research Symposia, fall 1999.
- Release of updated “Resource Book for Cancer Patients in NJ”, summer 1999.
- “International Conference on Advances in Cancer Immunotherapy” March 2-4, 2000, Princeton Marriott, Princeton, New Jersey.



Oberg & Lindquist, the well known appliance dealer on Broadway in Westwood, recently raised more than \$10,000 for breast cancer research at its Kitchen Aid/Oberg & Lindquist Golf Classic. Shown holding the large check, fifth from right, is Debra Oberg-Kmiecik, owner of Oberg & Lindquist Corporation. With her, left to right are: Bev Carter, Marcia Policastri, and Mary Cabala, all top amateur golfers; Kate Rogerson, LPGA professional who gave a clinic at the event; Jonni Clause, club champion of White Beeches Golf and Country Club in Haworth; Ken Reimann, Whirlpool Accounts Sales Manager; Dr. Robert Wieder, chairperson for the Breast Cancer Research Advisory Group to the NJ Commission on Cancer Research; Ann Marie Hill, Executive Director of the NJ Commission on Cancer Research; and Helen Richards, a top amateur golfer.

Advisory Group Update

Breast Cancer Research

In order to manage the New Jersey Breast Cancer Research Fund most effectively, the Commission assembled a group of experts and advocates. In addition to helping the Commission set its breast cancer research agenda, the group is active in educating the public to New Jersey breast cancer issues.

In 1998, the New Jersey Breast Cancer Research Fund tax check-off mechanism collected more than \$220,000 which will be used for breast cancer research projects in New Jersey and awarded during the 1999 grant cycle. The Commission applauds the members for their outstanding efforts in raising public support for breast cancer research in New Jersey and deeply thanks the citizens of the state for their generous contributions.

The group is also planning the *Third Annual New Jersey Breast Cancer Symposium* for October 29, 1999.

Joint Nursing & Psychosocial

This advisory group continued its progress by updating, *A Resource Book for Cancer Patients in New Jersey* for 1999. The 74 page booklet is full of helpful information for cancer patients, their families and friends. To date, over 40,000 copies of the resource books have been distributed to patients throughout New Jersey.

The advisory group under the leadership of Co-Chairperson Gary Walco, PhD planned a very successful national conference in October of 1998 on "*Cancer Survivorship Throughout the Life Span.*" Plans are being implemented for continuing this conference to answer the unmet needs of cancer survivorship throughout the lifespan in the coming years.

Cancer Prevention & Control

The Cancer Prevention & Control Advisory group, chaired by Dr. Dona Schneider, Associate Professor, Rutgers University, embarked on a number of interesting projects during the year including the completion of a survey on prostate screening practices by New Jersey primary care physicians and continued efforts aimed at improving the informed consent process for patients enrolling in clinical trials.

NJ Pediatric Hematology Oncology Group

The group has begun to focus its attention on late effects among long term pediatric cancer survivors and problems related to insurance coverage for clinical research trials. In addition, the group is mobilizing the pediatric cancer community to have a stronger voice in dealing with the special needs of children with cancer.

Prostate Cancer Advisory Group

This group will focus on three major areas: the development of research symposium and interactive forums aimed at increasing collaboration; the enhancement of information about prostate clinical trials in New Jersey; and the creation of special funding for prostate cancer research.

Basic Research Advisory Group

The group continues to play a very active role in opening channels of communication and interaction within the scientific community and the public at large.